

Maria Kann

The Ecomment system on the County calendar is timing out repeatedly and not allowing me to enter my public comment. Please submit my comment as a matter of public record prior to the Board of Supervisor meeting on 2024/04/23 to deny UP 20-40 Higher Ground Farms.

After reading all the documentation and comments associated with this project, I ask the Board to deny this appeal. The project is unsuitable for the location next to the historical school house and indeed school property. There is no mitigating this to less than significant. County Staff has clearly ignored the concerns and questions from the community and is pushing these projects through with little regard for the people and properties affected. County Staff appears to be heavily weighted in favor of cannabis activity in Lake County to the detriment and dismissal of the public at large. I respectfully ask that each of you county representatives find your moral compass and refocus your work for the community you serve and prioritize strong ethics over dirty money and personal profit.

Lorene and D. Patrick McGuire

Please uphold the Planning Commission's January decision to deny the Higher Grounds Farm's project from going forward. Lorene and D. Patrick McGuire

Laurie Scheibner

Respected Supervisors,

As 4th generation Lake County and an educator, I hereby request that you further deny the Higher Ground petition to establish a cannabis farming endeavor near the Hells Bend School in Big Valley.

The school was established as an educational facility nearly a century and a half ago. Kelseyville Unified School District retained the property for decades with the idea of preserving its history, and later with hopes of making it a Living History classroom for Lake County student field trips. KUSD finally turned the property over to its current caretakers with those same goals in mind.

In the spirit of education and the hopes to still use the Hells Bend School property as a Living History venue, I propose that current laws regarding cannabis should require that cannabis operations be restricted to outside 600 feet of a school (600 ft, which is more than 1/10 mile), the same as a dispensary.

In addition, plopping a cannabis farm with its associated odors (can't be helped due to the biology of the plant) in the middle of our much-advertised winery region and its farm stay venues would adversely affect current agricultural tourism.

I support your previous decision to deny the Higher Ground plan, and ask you to continue to keep the plan from happening in this Big Valley location.

Thank you,
Laurie Scheibner
4th generation born in Lake County

John Moorhead

To: BOS

Re: Consideration of Appeal (AB 24-01) of Planning Commission's Denial of Major Use Permit (UP 20-40), Higher Ground Farms / John Oliver applicant and appellant; location: 3545 Finley East Road, Kelseyville (APN: 008-026-07)

Sirs/Mmes:

While this project was in the planning stages, I wrote to voice my opinion on the glaring oversights in the proposed project, and the general ill-considered project in general. Now it's back for a final review, and I again, want to voice my opinion against approval of this project.

The Planning Commission's review in January noted that the project is seriously deficient and should not be approved. I ask the BOS to support this recommendation.

Water use, Crime, Proximity to the historic schoolhouse and schools - there are a welter of concerns here that are either poorly addressed, or simply can't be mitigated. There's a lot not to like about this project and another coat of paint isn't going to fix it!

I respectfully urge the Board to reject this proposal.

Thank you,

John Moorhead
410 Soda Bay Road
Lakeport, CA 95453

Carrie Lauenroth

I am writing this to ask that the board uphold the Planning Commission's decision on Jan. 11 to deny the Higher Ground Farms pot grow next to the Kelsey Creek Schoolhouse. How can you allow a pot grow next door to school property? How can you allow a pot grow next to what will hopefully be a meeting/event/community building? The stink alone will keep most people away!

Thank you,
Carrie Lauenroth

Robert & Kathryn Aguiar

We would like to state our wishes to uphold the Planning Commission's January decision. The project in our opinion is seriously deficient.

It doesn't belong in this area of farmland or next to the historic Kelseyville School House. We are long time residents of Kelseyville and have even contributed to the preservation of the school house.

It's a wonderful reminder of how life was in the Kelseyville community and the USA!

Thank you,

Robert & Kathryn Aguiar

Angela Carter

Dear Board Members:

This matter will be before you on April 23rd at 9:30 AM.

I am emailing to urge the board to uphold the Planning Commission's decision on January 11, 2024, to deny Higher Grounds Farm's cannabis grow next to the Kelsey Creek Schoolhouse.

The historic building is an important part of our Lake County history and having a cannabis grow so close to it degrades that history and creates a nuisance that cannot be diminished.

I would urge you to be more than short-sighted and to look at the importance of that schoolhouse and the impermanence of cannabis grows in our area.

The schoolhouse is a gathering place for local community and holds an important part of our history that should not be burdened by traffic, odor, perhaps even crime, all of which are frequently caused by cannabis.

Sincerely,

Angela Carter
707-245-4727
Kelseyville, CA

Nancy Brier

To the Lake County Board of Supervisors:

When California proposed legalizing medical marijuana in 1996, I voted in favor of it. My aunt was struggling with cancer, and I wanted her and others to have the full benefit of any drug that might help. I didn't anticipate the destruction of forrest land, armed home invasions, or teenagers being recruited to work in the industry.

When “Operation Full Court Press” went into the Mendocino National Forest to clean up pot grows, they removed 23 tons of trash, more than a ton of fertilizer, 57 pounds of poison, 22 miles of irrigation piping, and 32 guns. They found 13 man-made dams diverting water, and 120 propane tanks. That operation took place only ten years ago. What will the next ten years look like for the pot industry? No one knows.

Allowing a pot related business to set up shop next to the Kelsey Creek School House is ludicrous. Our county has an abundance of land. Why risk destroying one of our shared treasures. Please, say no.

Sincerely,
Nancy Brier

Lauren Trippeer

Dear Lake County Board of Supervisors,

When I was a little girl, my friends and I set up a lemonade stand in front of my house in Upper Lake. Within an hour, we had sold nearly \$100 worth. You might think this is because I was an extraordinary entrepreneur, that my lemonade was the most delicious on the planet, or that I got extremely lucky.

The reality is that my little town was overrun with pot people, and they bought my lemonade. It's the only good memory I have about pot — everything else about it is awful. In those days, the sidewalks of Upper Lake were covered with people waiting to see the pot doctor. Sometimes, they slept in my front yard. My parents told me that law enforcement couldn't do anything about it.

When I tell the story about making a hundred dollars an hour selling lemonade to thirsty pot heads, most people think it's funny. But those people didn't feel terrified to walk two blocks to the post office or wake up to see a stranger urinating on their rose bushes. The image of pot as the harmless past time of peace loving people doesn't jive with reality. What I saw, regularly, was an abundance of people engaged in the cash economy, neighbors whose homes were broken into, and newspaper stories involving guns, mean dogs, and drugs. I realize that the cannabis industry has evolved since that terrible time, but it has a long way to go. Until this product is legalized by the federal government and dust settles from years of illegitimate trade, forward-thinking leaders must exercise caution.

One clear way to do that is to block cannabis from Lake County's few historical treasures. Please, do your part to preserve the Kelsey Creek School House and say no to Higher Ground.

Sincerely,
Lauren Trippeer